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Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 5 '83

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF WORLD PRODUCTION AND TRADE

WR 42-83

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19--The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following developments in world agriculture and trade:

EC TRADE NOTES

The Government of FRANCE has announced a temporary import quota of 50,000 metric tons for table stock potatoes (excluding early potatoes) for shipments from non-European Community countries for the period from September 17 to December 31, 1983. The quota will permit shipments to enter without conforming to EC minimum import prices and will allow a maximum of 20,000 tons to be imported from Eastern Europe. Importers are required to obtain a license from French Customs for quota shipments. Imports from non-EC countries would be subject to a duty of 18 percent ad valorem.

The easing of import restrictions apparently is the result of a poor EC potato crop this year because of unfavorable growing conditions. The 1983 French production of table stock potatoes (excluding early potatoes) is estimated to be 18 percent below the 1982 harvest of 4.7 million tons. During the period July 1 to December 31, 1982, only 2,500 tons of table stock potatoes were imported from non-EC countries, and these shipments were regulated by an EC provision requiring that a minimum import price be assured.

GRAIN AND FEED

Total 1983/84 grain production in SPAIN is estimated at 13.3 million tons, marginally above last year's harvest, according to the U.S. Agricultural Counselor in Madrid. Although unfavorable weather affected the yields of both winter and spring grains, spring-sown crops, particularly corn, were more severely affected by the hot, dry summer conditions. Wheat, primarily a winter grain, is estimated at 4.35 million tons about the same as last year's outturn. Barley, also primarily a winter grain, is forecast at 6.38 million tons, up 21 percent from last year's drought-reduced crop. The corn crop is estimated at 1.5 million tons, a decrease of 36 percent from last year's harvest. Other grains--including oats, rye, sorghum, and rice--are estimated at 1.07 million tons, down 11 percent from last year's outturn.

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COTTON AND FIBERS

In JAPAN, imports of raw cotton totaled slightly over 3.1 million bales in 1982/83, a decrease of 364,000 bales from 1981/82. Japanese imports in 1983/84 are now estimated at 3.2 million bales. The United States remained the largest supplier to the Japanese market in 1982/83, exporting 1.3 million bales or 42 percent of total Japanese imports. Other major suppliers included Australia, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. Shortfalls in Mexican and Soviet production permitted Australia to increase exports to Japan to 400,000 bales, up 107,000 from 1981/82. With the Soviet Union halting exports to Japan during the second half of 1982/83, Soviet exports dropped 83,000 bales to 308,000. Pakistani exports to Japan increased by 28,000 bales to 171,000. The Pakistani government strongly promotes exports of raw cotton and yarn to Japan as a means to improve its serious trade imbalance.

TOBACCO

In HONG KONG, tobacco firms announced retail cigarette price increases of up to HK\$1.00 a pack, effective September 29, 1983. Reasons for the price increase include higher costs and currency inflation. Imported cigarette prices were increased by HK\$1.00 (U.S. \$.12), while local brands were increased by HK\$.50 (U.S. \$.06). The sharp drop and wild fluctuation in the local dollar finally prompted tobacco firms to announce the price increases.

FRUITS AND NUTS

WORLD commercial pistachio production for 1983 is expected to exceed moderately the 1982 volume due to larger crops in all producing countries except the United States. Pistachios are a very cyclical crop, as evidenced by the large production variations from year to year in most countries. However, in Syria, production has steadily increased since 1977. For several years, the Syrian Government has encouraged new plantings, and growers have responded because of remunerative prices. In contrast, pistachio output has remained fairly static in Greece even though plantings have increased 18 percent since 1977. Greek growers have a continuing problem with poor pollination and cultural practices which, despite increased tree numbers, have prevented the industry from realizing its full potential.

No estimate is currently available for the 1983 Iranian pistachio crop. However, various sources report that the 1983 crop will surpass the 1982 harvest of 22,500 tons (in-shell basis).

Pistachios: Commercial Production in Selected Countries
(1,000 metric tons, in-shell basis)

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983*
Greece	1.5	2.2	2.5	2.3	1.6	2.4
Iran	60.0	10.0	25.0	41.5	22.5	n.a.
Italy	0.4	2.0	0.4	4.5	0.2	5.0
Syria	6.9	5.2	8.0	9.2	11.0	11.5
Turkey	5.0	16.0	7.0	21.0	8.0	15.0
United States	1.1	7.8	12.2	6.6	20.0	12.5
Total....	74.9	43.2	55.1	85.1	63.3	--

*Preliminary

WORLD commercial walnut production for the 1983 season is currently forecast at 289,790 tons (in-shell basis), down 17 percent from the 1982 volume. The U.S. crop is expected to be the smallest since 1978 due to water damage from excessive winter and summer rains. Output in Europe will also be lower. Italy's crop is not expected to exceed the 1982 volume of 12,000 tons, and the French harvest will be 37 percent smaller than a year ago. Walnut crops in both countries were stressed by high temperatures and extremely dry weather during July and August. The French crop also sustained damage when severe storms in November 1982 uprooted trees in both the Dordogne and Grenoble areas. As a result of these storms, France's 1983 production potential was reduced by approximately 15 percent. However, industry sources believe some of the storm damage will be offset by new plantings in other areas that reached the bearing stage in 1983.

Since 1980, walnut production in Turkey appears to have stabilized between 70,000 and 75,000 tons, substantially below the record 105,000 tons harvested in 1977. In contrast, India's annual output has steadily increased since 1980. The 1983 crop is expected to reach a record 20,000 tons due to favorable weather conditions, more bearing trees and better management techniques.

Walnuts: Commercial Production in Selected Countries
(1,000 metric tons, in-shell basis)

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983*
France	19.8	20.3	21.0	10.0	31.0	19.5
India	18.0	17.0	16.5	17.0	18.0	20.0
Italy	15.0	16.0	14.0	13.0	12.0	12.0
Turkey	90.0	95.0	70.0	70.0	75.0	75.0
United States	145.1	188.7	178.7	204.1	212.3	163.3
Total....	287.9	337.0	300.2	314.1	348.3	289.8

*Preliminary

Selected International Prices

Item	: Oct. 18, 1983	: Change from	: A year
	:	: previous week	: ago
ROTTERDAM PRICES 1/	\$ per MT	\$ per bu.	\$ per MT
Wheat:			\$ per MT
Canadian No. 1 CWRS-13.5%.	206.50	5.62	-0-
U.S. No. 2 DNS/NS: 14%...	186.50	5.08	+2.50
U.S. No. 2 DHW/HW: 13.5%..	N.Q.	--	--
U.S. No. 2 S.R.W.....	161.50	4.10	+1.50
U.S. No. 3 H.A.D.....	199.00	5.42	-4.00
Canadian No. 1 A: Durum..	208.00	5.66	-6.00
Feed grains:			
U.S. No. 3 Yellow Corn....	161.50	4.10	+1.50
U.S. No. 2 Sorghum 2/.....	N.Q.	--	--
Feed Barley 3/.....	N.Q.	--	--
Soybeans and meal:			
U.S. No. 2 Yellow.....	342.00	9.30	+13.50
Brazil 47/48% SoyaPellets 4/	298.00	--	+5.00
U.S. 44% Soybean Meal.....	277.00	--	+15.00
U.S. FARM PRICES 5/			
Wheat.....	131.91	3.59	+1.47
Barley.....	101.51	2.21	+0.92
Corn.....	131.88	3.35	-0.40
Sorghum.....	117.51	5.3536/	-0.22
Broilers 7/.....	1168.88	--	+67.24
EC IMPORT LEVIES			
Wheat 8/.....	74.30	2.02	-8.32
Barley.....	51.25	1.12	-2.46
Corn.....	41.30	1.05	-6.57
Sorghum.....	57.70	1.47	-4.17
Broilers 9/.....	254.00	--	-2.00 10/
EC INTERVENTION PRICES 10/			
Common wheat(feed quality)	170.25	4.63	+2.35
Bread wheat (min. quality)	186.90	5.09	+2.26
Barley and all			
other feed grains.....	170.25	--	+2.35
Broilers 11/.....	1123.00	--	-0-
EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS (subsidies)			
Wheat 12/.....	44.60	1.21	-.35
Wheat flour.....	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
Barley.....	22.50	.49	3.30
Broilers 9/.....	174.00	--	-1.00 10/
Sugar, refined	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.

1/ Asking prices in U.S. dollars for imported grain and soybeans, c.i.f., Rotterdam. 2/ Optional delivery: Argentine Granifero sorghum. 3/ Optional delivery: Canadian feed barley. 4/ Optional delivery: Argentine. 5/ Based on selected major markets and adjusted to reflect farm prices more closely. 6/ Hundredweight (CWT). 7/ Twelve-city average, wholesale weighted average. 8/ Durum has a special levy. 9/ EC category--70 percent whole chicken. 10/ Reflects lower EC export subsidy--down to 20.00 ECU/100 bag effective 14 Sept 83 from 22.50 ECU/100 bag set in Feb 1983. 11/ F.o.b. price for R.T.C. broilers at West German border. 12/ Corrective amount in ECU's: Oct. -5, Nov. -8, and Dec. -10. Jan. zero. N.Q.=Not quoted. N.A.=None authorized. Note: Basis November delivery.

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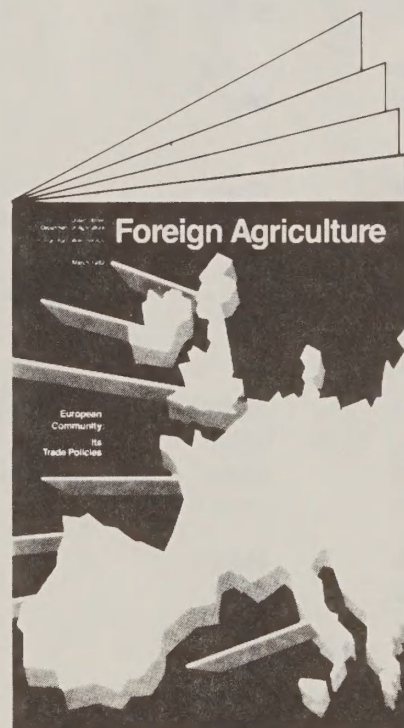
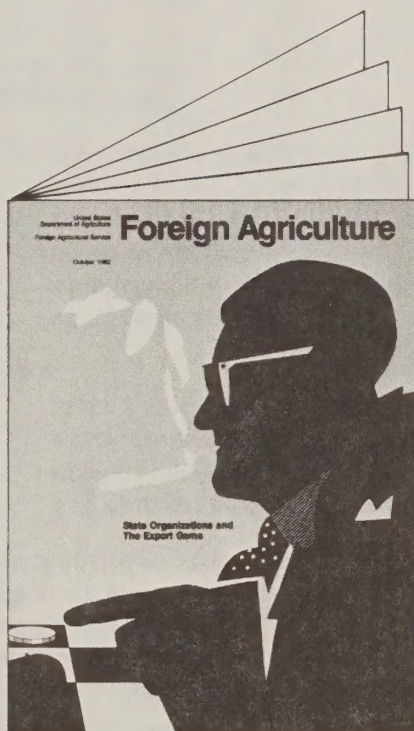
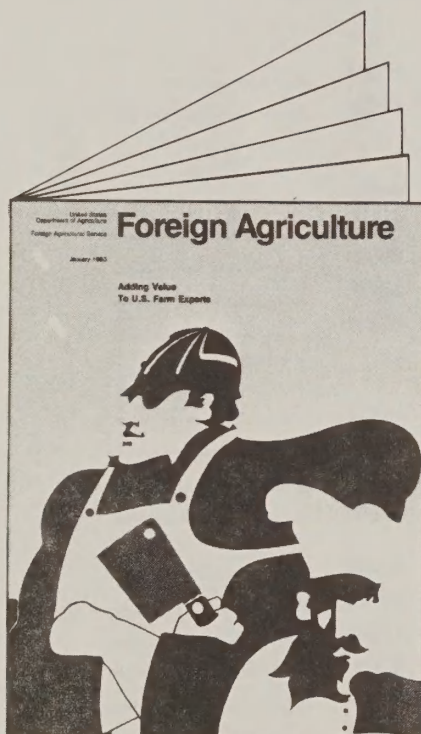
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